

LUCHA LIBRE WEEKLY

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1992

\$1.00 PER ISSUE - 1427 WEST DICKENS AVE - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60614

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 11

CMLL BEGINS TO SPLIT IN TWO

WHAT HAPPENED (Present)

The world's largest wrestling promotion, both in terms of wrestling events promoted annually and of number of wrestlers employed, has split up. CMLL Vice-President Antonio Pena, regarded by many as the creative force behind the CMLL's regaining of the status as Mexico's top promotion, submitted his resignation this week to his boss, CMLL President Francisco "Paco" Alonso Lutteroth. Many CMLL wrestlers, in support of Pena, have reportedly offered their notices to quit as well, and it is presumed Pena and these wrestlers will attempt to start a promotion in competition with Alonso's. By the way, thanks to Dave Meltzer for calling me and giving me this news and permission to run it. I was dreading that this might happen; in fact, there have been rumors of this split as far back as mid-1991 and some thought it had already happened. The biggest questions arising from this might concern the future, but let me get to what (little) is known right now. Re last week's cover page story, I think circumstances are different here.

HOW WE GOT HERE (Past)

Pena was also the producer of television for Televisa and Galavision, and many observers felt that it was Pena's ideas that had turned the promotion around in 1992 after a sub-par 1991. It had been thought for some time that Pena and Alonso did not get along well and that Alonso felt that Pena would eventually try to seize control of the promotion from under him. Differences between the two reached a critical point last August and September. Pena signed contracts on behalf of the EMLL to begin televising on Sundays the big EMLL show of the week held the prior Friday night. Originally the television time slot was to be Sunday nights in prime time, and on the most-watched network in the country. Alonso was either not in on these negotiations or did not realize their full scope.

The wrestlers' union, under the stated reason that they feared that overexposure of their product on television would kill a fertile territory, said they would strike rather than participate in any other TV tapings for Pena and soon thereafter the strike occurred. Eventually, the strike was settled, with Televisa giving in and allowing the TV slot to be moved to noon and allowing the UWA to broadcast weekly cards on a (weaker) Mexico network. In turn, the union allowed its wrestlers to work Pena's TV tapings. (Side note: it has been since suggested that another reason the union did not want Pena's TV show in prime time was that the benefits to the EMLL would be so huge in terms of exposure that the weaker UWA would be severely hurt, and so far it appears that this fear was well-justified).

Since he was hired around 1988, Pena has done other things besides producing television for the EMLL. He was the "idea man" for the company. He came up with new characters and gimmicks out of whole cloth (literally and figuratively) such as Octagon, la Mascara Sagrada, el Misterioso, el Volador, and others. He created a whole new promotional "league" with the character-heavy midgets (who due to their work rate were a wild hit). He went out and acquired the talent he saw in other promotions he felt would best help him: Rey Misterio and Konnan from the WWA/Tijuana area, for example, and several UWA stars such as Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo, el Ultimo Dragon (Yoshihiro Asai), los Brazos and others (another side note: crucial to Pena's success is that he raided the best workers from the opposition, not the biggest names or best bodies or most charismatic guys). Pena, I believe, heavily influences, if not outright determines who wins, how they win, and how to promote to heat feuds long-term for "his" guys.

And it's at the point of "his" guys that we start to get into a very nebulous area. It is a fact that Alonso, Pena, and even CMLL financial head Juan Herrera each have wrestlers who are allied with each one of them. For a fact, el Satanico and Lizmark are in the camp of Alonso. Octagon and Konnan are in the camp of Pena. And while those who are affiliated with Herrera are fewer, I believe the Guerrero brothers, la Bestia Salvaje, and el Comando Ruso are there. By the way, on yet another side note, los Brazos are almost always referred to as "peacemakers," within the union and out, so I believe very strongly that they are sort of tweeners or, well, peacemakers really is a better word. Pena has definitely resigned and several wrestlers have reportedly given notice. This includes two that I found to be a major surprise—Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo and el Hijo del Santo. I personally presume that with Pena's resignation the

wrestlers in his "camp" will also be gone soon. This would by my estimation include, but not be limited to, the following tally, which represents the best breakdown I have (I would guess 85-90% accuracy here would be about right): Octagon, la Mascara Sagrada, Konnan el Barbaro, all the super-mini-estrellas, Ringo and Cachorro Mendoza, America, la Aguila Solitaria, Ciclon Ramirez, Oro, Plata, Bronce, Rocco Valente, Tony Arce, el Vulcano, el Misterioso, el Volador, Aguayo, Santito, Ponzona, Enjambre, Marabunta, el Ultimo Dragon, Pierroth junior, Jaque Mate, Masakre, Apolo and Cesar Dantes, el Felino, Canelo Casas, The Blue Panther, Vampiro Casanova, Fuerza Guerrera sr. and jr., and I believe Negro Casas if/when he jumps. Wow, you could form a real good federation with that roster. In fact, the most recent quoted figure I have was that the CMLL currently employs 165 wrestlers. (The UWA, by the way, employs about 70.) So you could have a CMLL split and still have two 80+ groups; not to mention the fact that there are some young guys wrestling the little arenas like el Tarasco III, el Goleador, los Rayos Stars, and others, who could step in to help right away. And guys could be brought in from other territories, too, like Monterrey, Juarez, Guadalajara, and/or Tijuana.

WHAT'S NEXT (The Future)

But now would be a good time to look at what the fallout of this split might be:

* **Who would get the television?** It is presumed that Pena, with his ties to Televisa, would be in the better position here. It is also possible that Alonso may get Saturday's show of two hours and Pena may get the better Sunday slot. It has been rumored that Pena, who takes many of his ideas from the WWF, would turn to a squash match/interview format. (That would be a big mistake in my opinion).

* **If Pena gets the best talent, who is left for Alonso?** How about this? El Rayo de Jalisco junior (he may be in either camp), el Dandy, Kato Kung Lee I, los Tinieblas, la Fiera, The Blue Demon junior, Anibal, el Angel Azteca, la Mano Negra, Lizmark, el Hijo de Lizmark, Black Magic, el Satanico, el Pirata Morgan, M. S. 1, Kung Fu, el Hijo de Solitario, el Hijo del Gladiador, el Angel Blanco junior, el Gran Markus junior, Herodes, el Medico Asesino junior, los Hermanos Guerreros, Cien Caras, Mascara Ano Dos Mil, Universo Dos Mil, Kung Fu, Jerry Estrada, la Bestia Salvaje, Atlantis, Emilio Charles junior, Hombre Bala, el Verdugo, Sangre Chicana, el Egipcio, el Comando Ruso, Nitron, el Septiembre Negro junior, el Espectro junior, el Espectro de Ultratumba, el Cadaver de Ultatumba, and others, including maybe los Brazos (who would be a big help). The 85% or so accuracy percentage applies here I hope.

* **What will Alonso's next move be?** He will force all the wrestlers to sign new contracts or not, to see who he has. He will undoubtedly push those who sign and lose the rest. This week's TV (that aired on Galavision 5/2) is already finished, and next week's may be a "Children's Day" Special (I hope to know by press time) but after that all bets are off. I suspect that we better enjoy the good matches while we can because after that we may get Pena and his angle/interview/squash match format real soon.

* **Who will get the arenas?** I suspect Alonso; he has the same advantage here that Pena has with TV in the sense that Alonso has had several (18+) years' track record of his (presumably) honorably dealing with arenas throughout the country, such as Monterrey (The Monumental Bull Ring), Guadalajara (Arena Coliseo), Acapulco (Arena Coliseo), Puebla (Arena Puebla), Leon (Arena Isabel), Cuernavaca (Arena Isabel), Naucalpan (Arena Naucalpan), Xochimilco (Arena Xochimilco), and Mexico City (Arenas Mexico, Coliseo, Pista Revolucion, San Lorenzo, San Juan Panitlan, and others). While Pena has been working TV, Alonso has handled the arena bookings. Oh, el Brazo de Oro controls the el Cortijo bullring, el Gato Montini (real name Javier Medina) controls Pista Revolucion, and America (ex-el Pantera II) Arena Naucalpan. I believe America is in Pena's camp and the other two I would say are in the middle but more likely to land with Alonso than Pena.

* **How will this affect the UWA?** This could be interesting. I would not put it out of the realm of possibility that there might be some sort of Alonso alliance with the UWA (not a direct merger, though). Alonso was around when the UWA split off from the EMLL in late 1974, but right now Pena would be far tougher competition for Alonso than would the UWA. A likely form this could take is to make sure that each group's "big one or two cards" of the week run without direct opposition from the other and I could very easily see some form of talent sharing pool established. That way a Lizmark or los Brazos could work el Toreo and a Cinek could work an odd Arena Mexico card if needed. This actually, in my own opinion, is a fairly likely reaction. Short-term, the UWA will be helped merely by being the "stablest" promotion. In reality, this is a golden opportunity for them.

* **Who controls the purse strings?** Right now, Alonso and Herrera (who almost surely is with Alonso on this) do. Pena had been ~~very~~ quietly getting Televisa to invest into his TV production and I would guess (educated guess) that the money for any promotion Pena would start would come either from Televisa or private investors. And if those private investors compare attendance at the UWA and CMLL shows with the last 2-3 years (things are down in both promotions, though by far more so in the UWA) I would think a prudent investor would think twice before sinking money into a new promotion. Televisa, however, would be sinking its money only into a weekly television series and

that is a horse of a different color altogether. If the rating for the Sunday lucha libre how is at or near the levels that have been claimed in some quarters (25% shares, which would be extraordinary--and I highly doubt these numbers--but as the only living form of a sort of "Mexican National Theater" like a Kabuki or Noh in Japan, maybe the numbers are accurate) then that sort of Televisa investment may be more logically defended.

* What does the immediate future hold? I have written the bulk of this story on the day that I first heard the news, Thursday, April 30, 1992. I have since that day exhausted all my normal sources of magazines, television, and newspapers up to and including the date of mailing, Tuesday, April 5, 1992. The answer is I don't know. I suppose a reconciliation is always possible. I do suspect that what happens will happen quickly, especially if Alonso immediately drops all the luchadores in Pena's "camp."

UWA NEWS: This issue, as promised last week, will catch up with some of the in-the-ring results and out-of-the-ring news stories in both major Mexican promotions. First, I want to thank Dave Meltzer (again) for his help, and Kurt Brown, Dan Farren, Larry Doyle, and "Doctor D" Andy Dragos with their help in getting me material for my research for this issue. Here we go! First up, here are some of the latest results I have:

* I don't have as many UWA cards to review results from as I do for the CMLL, and in fact, this first card is a mixed card (wouldn't it be great to have regular inter-promotion cards in America or Japan?) On Wednesday, April 15, 1992, a joint UWA/CMLL card was held at la Arena Apático in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico. The main event saw a tecnico team consisting of Mil Mascaras (who is technically independent but has worked for only the UWA since 3/24/90 appearing on no pure CMLL "major arena" cards since then), el Hijo del Santo (who is also technically independent but apparently if there is a CMLL split would align with Pena), and Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon (Yoshihiro Asai, whose jump from the UWA to the CMLL last September created even more ill feelings between the UWA and Antonio Pena, who signed Asai for the CMLL). They won two straight falls from el Espanto junior (who is super) and the bald team of las Bestias Negras I and II (they lost their hair within the last month to Dragon and Vampiro Casanova). Las Bestias were subbing for two of los Intocables del Ring (don't know which two) who no-showed. At the end of the second fall (both falls saw Santo defeat Espanto) Espanto challenged Santo for the latter's UWA World Welterweight Championship. A title match was signed for the following Saturday night (4/18). The semifinal of Wednesday's card saw CMLL guys Koga (Toshiyuki Nakahara from SWS) and Iga (Masao Orihara from SWS) team with Blackman II from the UWA, and they defeated the basically independent team of la Bestia Negra I, Alta Tension, and el Rey Guerrero. One of the Japanese won the third fall and the match via submission with the scorpion death lock submission hold. Local names made up the rest of the card. In the tercera, los Renegados I and II and el Illegal won two of three falls from Shazam (no, Jim Nabors was not under that hood) and los Espuelas de Oro I and II. The segunda saw el Halcon Guerrero and Flechador defeat la Mancha and Colt. The inicial found Condor Azul over Campesino Marquez and Furia Potosina.

* Next up is the return card from the 18th of April at the same Arena Apático. I know the result of only the main event here, but el Hijo del Santo did in fact successfully defend his UWA World Welterweight Championship. He defeated el Espanto junior two falls to one. The finish of the third fall and the match was a clean submission to Santito's usual camel clutch submission hold, "la de a caballo."

* The following afternoon at the "el Toreo de Cuatro Caminos" bull ring in Naucalpan, Mexico, Mexico, saw the initial match of "Andree el Gigante" on what was billed as his third and final tour of Mexico. He turned face on the 26th, his last day in, and they may yet bring him back. But on the 19th, he teamed with Rambo and Bam Bam Bigelow to defeat Canek, el Villano III, and el Villano V in two straight falls. I went over this in the "late news" section two weeks ago, so I won't go into more detail here, but I can now flesh out the results from the rest of the card. The semifinal saw los Cowboys (el Texano and Silver King) team with el Tigre Canadiense Mike Lozansky to defeat los Cazadores del Cabezas I y II (The Head Hunters A and B) and Fishman in three falls. This was said to be a good match and there was heavy speculation about the finish where one of the Head Hunters was disqualified in the third fall for nailing el Texano with the tombstone piledriver. The Head Hunters continued attacking los Cowboys after the match to continue their feud which just boiled over last Sunday, the 26th, the Head Hunters' last day in for a while. By the way, as a number of people have pointed out, the Head Hunters now do a complete "Abdullah the Butcher act" with heavy blood and foreign objects, which is not very common in Mexico rings. The tercera saw a non-title victory for the UWA World Trios Champions. That is, los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte (The Black Power II, el Signo, and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro) defeated el Fantasma and two of las Panteras Rosas (los Villanos I and V). Oh, by the way, right before the main event, they held a memorial minute of applause, not silence, for el Villano II (q.e.p.d.), who passed away three years ago that week. The segunda has Super Raton, (Super) Pinochio, and el Sicodelico drawing in the third fall with Casandro (who is a delight to watch), el Scorpio I, and el Scorpio junior. And the inicial of the evening card saw Katana (ex-Leon Chino, who I still believe has given his notice to return home to Baja California) team with el Celestial (ex-Blackman I) to win two out of three falls from Ricky Boy and el Gran Petroneo. El

Gran Petroneo was substituting for Momotaro (Hiro Wakida, who wrestles as Monkey Magic Wakita in Japan), who, even though he did not wrestle on the last Universal "tour" of Japan, did accompany to Japan the guys who did and whose plane did not make it back in time for this card.

UWA NEWS: Here are some of the out-of-the-ring activities I have found out about recently about UWA guys:

* Mil Mascaras was interviewed (no doubt for the 1,000,000th time) in this week's Box y Lucha. Among the things he's quoted as saying is that he's like to wrestle in Moscow (he was asked if he had any unfulfilled goals). Wonder if he knows Antonio Inoki has a card coming in Russia, at least, September 4th and 5th. He does say his greatest rival is Canek, which is odd, considering the promotion isn't likely to put those two together again any time soon. He also claims to believe in re-incarnation, which strikes me as an odd belief in a heavily Roman Catholic country. Kahos I is also interviewed in that same issue. He said he has had many highlights ince he debuted (2/2/84) but that actually being trained by The (original) Blue Demon is one of the tops. The other big highlight was about three years back when he was, simultaneously, UWA World Trios Champion and National Parejas Champion. Ever since Kahos's regular pareja/trio partner "el Loco Zandokan" was injured in 1989, Kahos has suffered. He has not even had much luck with Kahos II, who is some sort of younger relative (son or nephew or cousin, I'm not sure which). He has really been treading water for a while now. Zandokan was supposed to have returned this year, and by now in fact, but not one word has been heard of him from this end in several months.

* In that last paragraph I started talking about Mil Mascaras. I am reminded to tell everyone that both Mil Mascaras and Canek have introduced new masks (Mil has several new ones) within the last year. Canek's new one, a Mayan floral print thing, is pictured in the color centerfold of the Box y Lucha. A true classic. Mil's several new ones generally do not have the "classic 'M'" that has dominated his masks in the 1980's. He has a more modern look to several and one, similar to Canek, is brown and green and sure to be a big hit among collectors. By the way, it is possible to order Mexican masks for a very expensive price through either the Mexican magazine Arena or the Japanese magazines Weekly Gong and Weekly Pro Wrestling. The Arena masks are a few CMLL masks and are 45,000 pesos (or a little under \$15.00) each including postage and handling. There are far more masks (especially of older wrestlers) through Japan, but they are far more. Write or call me if you're interested. Oh, did I tell you that Arena accepts outside advertising in its magazine, which is aimed in part at kids, and one of the advertisers (inside back cover no less) is Trojan. Yes, that Trojan.

* As of press time, I am not sure what will air on the UWA television next week. On Saturday, May 2, 1992, the card taped Friday, April 24, 1992, at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl will air. That had Canek's team versus Andree el Gigante's team in the main event. But for the show to air Saturday, May 9, 1992, they would normally air a card taped Friday, May 1, 1992, at la Arena "Neza," but there was apparently none taped. The reason none was taped is that May 1 is the date each year that the UWA holds its annual "El Toreo Cup" card. Tshi is a mixed (meaning rudos mixed with tecnicos on the same team) tag-team tournament. And since February 15th of this year, the UWA has not been allowed to tape the el Toreo cards for its weekly TV shows. The first year the team were three per side and last year two per side. Of course, if I were the UWA, I'd worry about who wins. Two years ago, Sangre Chicana was on the winning team and within a month had jumped to the rival promotion. The same thing happened last year with el Brazo de Plata.

* The UWA also sponsored three World Title matches in the last week. On April 24, los Cowboys defended the UWA World Parejas titles versus los Cazadores del Cabezas. On April 26, The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow) defended his UWA World Junior Heavyweight title versus Enrique Vera. Both of those matches were at la Arena "Neza." And on the 28th, el Villano V defended his UWA Light Heavyweight Championship versus el Scorpio junior. Check the "late news" section to see whether there are any new UWA champions.

UWA LUCHADORES EN JAPON: Severia of the UWA wrestlers are involved in the New Japan "top Of the Super Junior III" junior heavyweight tournament in Japan. Since we last looked last week, here are some of the results: 4/20/92 (Fukuchiyama): Norio Honaga p. The Black Scorpio; The Pegasus Kid p. Eddy Guerrero in 12:08 with the superplex; el Samurai p. Koji Kanemoto (ex-Tiger Mask III) in 11:29 with Octagon's Tiburazon finisher; and in a non-league match, Negro Casas pinned Satoshi Kojima. On 5/21 in Ishikawa (for a TV taping), Lyger pinned Norio Honaga in 12:14, Casas pinned Pegasus Kid in 11:38 with "la magisterial" or el Dandy's Dandina cradle; el Samurai pinned Eddy Guerrero in 10:10 with the german suplex hold; Scorpio lost in a tag-team bout. On April 23rd in Wakayama, Peagsus Kid used a regular Mexican rana to pin Lyger in 12:42; el Samurai pinned Finlay in 11:08 with the old Bob Backlund rolling reverse cradle with a bridge; Negro Casas pinned Scorpio in 10:05 with la magisterial; and Eddy Guerrero won his first match, pinning Kanemoto with a missile kick (off-the-top-rope dropkick). On the 24th in Shimonoseki, Scorpio p. Kanemoto in 12:52 with his neat Scorpio Splash Flip, Finlay p. Guerrero in 12:16 with el martinete (that would be illegal if Roberto "el Guero" Rangel had seen you, Dave); Casas p. Honaga in 8:56 with la magisterial; and el Samurai p. Hiro Saito via DQ in a non-league match. So Samurai and Casas are 1-2 right now!

CMLL RESULTS: Here is the most comprehensive look of what's up in CMLL rings since I began this publication 11 weeks ago:

* On Sunday, April 5, 1992, Josseline (age 18) defeated Selene to win the Womens' Wrestling Championship of la Arena San Lorenzo (I just ~~know~~ everyone had been waiting for that one).

* On April 11, 1992, in San Luis Potosi, San Luis Potosi, Mexico (home of Mil Mascaras, Dos Caras, and el Sicodelico), Pierroth junior defeated la Mascara Sagrada to keep the CMLL World Light Heavyweight Championship.

* On April 12 at la Arena Naucalpan in Naucalpan, Mexico, Mexico, America (ex-el Pantera II) successfully defended his CMLL World Welterweight Championship by defeating Erick "el Canelo" Casas in three falls. Casas has announced that he is in search of a new nickname (he tried this last year with "Dinamita" but it did not work).

* At the Tuesday night card held April 14th at la Arena Coliseo in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico, Fuerza Guerrera teamed up in the main event with Mascara Ano Dos Mil and Universo Dos Mil to defeat America, el Filoso, and The Love Machine two falls to one. The first fall saw Mascara Ano Dos Mil defeat el Filoso with "un medio cangrejo" (boston crab); the second saw America pin Fuerza after a beautiful "quebradora" (spinning backbreaker); and the third saw Guerrera make America submit clean to "la de a caballo" (camel clutch). America and Fuerza ripped at each other's mask and challenged each other back and forth after the match. This match saw the debut of Fuerza's son, now billed as Juventud Guerrera (age 17); as he accompanied his dad to the ring he was immediately attacked by America. The semifinal saw a rare double count out of the ring finish as all six men failed to make it back in by the count of twenty in a match between los Guerreros del Espacio (el Guerrero Maya, el Guerrero del Futuro, and captain Damian, el Guerrero) and la Aguila Solitaria, el Solar II, and Cicon Ramirez. Los Guerreros del Espacio have a new trio team nickname here, as I guess they felt with one of the members called "el Guerrero Maya" it would not make much sense to call all of them "los Guerros Mayas" also. As has been mentioned, el Guerrero Maya used to be Black Terry in the UWA (real name is Esteban Mares) and el Guerrero del Futuro is Jose Luis Feliciano.

* Wednesday, April 15, 1992, saw the weekly card at la Arena Coliseo de Acapulco in Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico. The main event saw the movie stars, Atlantis and Octagon, team up in a rare four-man tag-team main-event to defeat Emilio Charles junior, who in the tradition of The French Angel, The Swedish Angel, etc., is called "el Rey del Beautiful," and Mascara Ano Dos Mil in three falls. The finish of the third fall saw Atlantis do the quebrada (moonsault bodyblock) outside the ring onto Mascara Ano Dos Mil and beat the count back in, while Octagon made Charles submit to his Russian/leg/sweep into a leg/behind/the/neck/neck/stretch submission hold. I have finally found the local name for so I don't have to type that long description. It's called "la Tiburazon." In the semifinal, "The Team From Beyond The Grave" (el Espectro junior, el Espectro de Ultratumba [means "the ghost from beyond the grave" in local slang], and el Cadaver de Ultratumba) lost in three falls to CHavo Guerrero, la Aguila Solitaria, and Cicon Ramirez. The finish of the third fall saw Guerrero do a big dive onto one of the Espectros while Solitaria did a big dive on the other, while in the ring Ramirez pinned Cadaver after a big plancha (cross body block from off of the top rope). In the segunda, two new characters with the "Huracan Ramirez" gimmick won a match. "El Hijo de Huracan Ramirez" and "El Huracan Ramirez junior" defeated rudos el Insolito and Che Guevara (not the Cuban revolutionary, mind you, he's dead) in three falls. This match was said by Bar y Lucha to have been spectacular with big dives from the tecnicos. The segunda and inicial featured local youngsters in singles' matches. Therein, Rolls Royce won two of three falls from el Apostol and Ponky (not the one from L. A.) defeated el Rudo in three falls.

* The match that did not air on Galavision last weekend (4/26) that was held on 4/17 at la Arena Coliseo, which was the semifinal of the card, saw los Intocables del Ring (Jaque Mate, Masakre, and captain Pierroth junior) win two out of three falls from Lizmark, Salomon Grondy, and captain la Mascara Sagrada. The CMLL World Trios Titles held by los Intocables were not at stake. The finish of the third fall saw Pierroth junior make Mascara Sagrada submit cleanly.

* Cien Caras successfully defended his CMLL World Heavyweight Championship at la Arena Puebla in Puebla, Puebla, Mexico, on Saturday, April 18, 1992. The opponent was el Rayo de Jalisco junior, who failed in his second try at the title. This was Caras's fourth successful title defense. The finish of the third fall saw Caras foul Rayo behind the referee's back and then do an over-the-top roll-up for a pinfall. The semifinal saw Salomon Grondy, Aaron Grondy (Mike Shaw aka Norman aka Makhan Singh), and Ringo Mendoza defeat M. S. 1, el Pirata Morgan, and el Gran Markus junior two falls to one.

* Saturday, April 18th was also the weekly Saturday night card at Mexico's version of Tokyo's famous Korakuen Hall, that being la Pista Arena Revolucion. The main event was the first match back for The Blue Panther since his "injury" at the hands of The Love Machine (Art Barr) in the mascara contra mascara match held at la Arena Mexico on April 3rd. The Blue Panther teamed with two-thirds of Mexican National Trios Champions los Hermanos Dinamita, in this case Mascara Ano Dos Mil and Universo Dos Mil. That trio defeated Lizmark, America, and Apolo Dantes in three

falls. Panther dominated, pounding on both Lizmark and America and carrying the brawl into the third row of ringside seats. Eventually, in the third fall, after all the pounding they had taken and after being hit with big dives, both America and Lizmark were counted out of the ring. Meanwhile, inside the squared circle, Dantes was punished and being made to submit to a sort of "all-body-parts-stretcher" submission hold that is a common rudo finish in Mexico. The fans were said to have gotten into this match a bunch and Panther came off as "furious at all tecnicos" and ready "to take on all comers." The semifinal saw los Intocables del Ring again, this time in a rudo versus rudo non-title match, defeating the "Middle-Eastern/Egyptian" trio of Gargola el Sultan, Hussein el Gran Sheick (Jose Luis Arias Romero), and Ulises (Tony Salazar) in two straight falls. After the match, Ulises started attacking Pierroth junior, and Pierroth (I take it the Untouchables were faces for this match only) challenged Ulises to a mask match (which will never happen, there would be way too much political fallout if and when it turned out to be Tony Salazar after all under that hood and Pierroth certainly isn't losing ~~his~~ mask in the next few years, he's too hot by far). Ulises in turn asked for a Trios Titles match, which is unlikely as this losing team is a makeshift team. The tercera saw los Guerreros de Espacio lose (first match result I have of their losing a match) to Koga (Toshiyuki Nakahara), Iga (Masao Orihara), and el Nuevo Audaz as the upset tecnico winners won the last two falls. This result is a surprise in that this winning team has no real promotional future. The segunda saw tecnicos el Guerrero Samurai II, el Duro (who debuted in this match and is NOT Shu, el Guerrero, as I thought he might be), and Pegaso (who is really small but very good) defeat los Ku Klux Klanes I, II, and III via disqualification (for a foul) in the third fall. The Klan has not gotten over at all, in a big disappointment to the promotion. In fact, the ultra-heavy rudo gimmicks like KKK, Che Guevara, Arafat, el Septiembre Negro junior, etc., just don't get over any more with ONE exception--the "border police"-type gimmick still works, as the L. A. Police, las Migras, etc., have been the only ones of this type to get over in the 1990's. The main event saw rudos Ku Klux Klan I (substituting for Tor-Ver, son of el Gran Davis (q.e.p.d.), who no-showed) and el Rey David defeating el Misterio Tapatio and el CHamaco Ayala in three falls.

* Sunday, April 19, 1992, at la Arena Coliseo saw the CMLL's biggest card of that day (they ran over a dozen around the country). I had reported the result of the main event, where The Blue Panther, Fuerza Guerrera, and Jerry "el Puma" Estrada defeated The Love Machine, Anibal (who is planning to retire this year), and Atlantis two falls to one. The first fall saw Panther make Atlantis submit to "la Tirabuzon" in a battle of World Middleweight Champions; the second saw Atlantis get revenge with "un medio cangrejo;" and the third fall saw Guerrera pin Anibal while Estrada was pinning Atlantis, as Panther and Machine were brawling outside of the ring. This was Panther's and Machine's first meeting since 4/3 and was said to be quite heated (and very good). The semifinal saw the second straight loss of los Guerreros del Espacio to an undercard team, this time to la Aguila Solitaria, Platino, and Ciclon Ramirez in three falls; it was said to have been a good match. Well, I guess it's safe to say it wasn't a very good week in the ring for "los Guerreros del Espacio." The tercera saw that obnoxious Javier "el Gusano" Llanes team with Panico and el Septiembre Negro junior to defeat Rokambole, Talisman junior, and la Aguila de Plata in three falls. The super-mini-estrellas took center stage in the second fall, with ruditos Jerrito Estrada, el Pequeno Pierroth, and el Pequeno Cobarde taking two out of three falls from tecnicocitos el Misteriocito, la Aguilita Solitaria, and el Justicierito (Justicierito's "reappearance" is a sign that "el Justicerio" is expected back). The opener saw el Reyes Veloz I defeated Dick Angelo junior in three falls.

* Thanks to David Scherer in Marmora, New Jersey, and his 30-degree part in his satellite dish, I have some current news about television shows for both promotions. First, the UWA, in a big surprise, aired on its television show of Saturday, May 2, 1992, the card from el Toreo on April 26, 1992, where Andree el Gigante turned babyface. The card that was expected to air was from two days earlier where Canek would face off with Andree and Bam Bam Bigelow, and where los Cowboys and los Cazadores would have a UWA Parejas title match. I do not know yet what this signals for the television card for Saturday, May 9th. The CMLL Saturday night show went off without a hitch. It aired the matches from the previous Tuesday night's (4/28) card at la Arena Coliseo. There, the main event featured Fuerza Guerrera, Universo Dos Mil, and Mascara Ano Dos Mil facing off against la Mascara Sagrada, Lizmark, and Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon. Several of the younger guys worked underneath and there was no wrestler call in segment as usual. The show that was aired in Mexico City on Sunday, May 3, and will air on Galavision on Sunday, May 10, I knew would either be the 4/30 schoolkids card or the 5/1 la Arena Coliseo card. What we got was the Sunday card. The main event was (and will be for cable viewers) Kendo Nagasaki (from SWS), The Blue Panther, and Emilio CHarles junior versus The Love Machine, la Mascara Sagrada, and Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon (all six of these wrestlers would be in Pena's camp). CHarles is replacing Fiera who was also booked in Monterrey for 5/1 and couldn't work both slots. The day of this card, 5/1, was Labor Day in Mexico, and one day after Childrens' Day, so part of a long holiday weekend. Being such, it was pre-empted for a live opera broadcast on its normal satellite space on Sunday, May 3rd and put on a different channel, but it did air. The only other match I am sure that aired was the card segunda and television opener, which saw los Guerreros del Espacio (Damian, el Guerrero, el Guerrero Maya, and el Guerrero del Futuro) face el Solar II, Ciclon Ramirez, and la Aguila Solitaria. So at least up until May 3rd, the TV schedule was running as normal here. Oh, Galavision is now on some Boston cable systems.

CMLL NEWS: Here are the latest non-results data that I have on Mexico's largest (for the moment) promotion:

* El Faraon (Jose Luis Barajas Fernandez) was interviewed about his one-year-plus retirement from the ring. In reality he had been fired (I believe by Paco Alonso) in late 1990 for a combination of things, primarily no-showing and a haughty attitude towards his bosses. For this interview, Faraon (the ring name means "Pharaoh") claimed to have been working on private personal negotiations about a private matter on which he was working in Guadalajara which required his undivided attention. (Editors' note: maybe he did and maybe everything he said is true, but that was absolutely NOT why he was missing; he was sacked.) He says he's back in full-time now.

* A "new" wrestler, Furor, has debuted here. I put the "new" in parentheses because with this organization, one never can tell whether this is a wrestler new to us or whether it's an older wrestler with a new mask and gimmick. He does say that the name "Furor," gimmick, mask, and costume were created by Antonio "Tono" Pena, so that would normally ensure a push on television very soon. He says he is being trained in the gym on the fifth floor of la Arena Mexico by head CMLL trainer Pepe "Tropi" Casas. His uncle was ex-luchador el Cerrajero and he is originally from Villahermosa, Tabasco, Mexico (Canek lives in Frontera, a Villahermosa suburb). He joins "el Nuevo Audaz" and "Full Contact" as new Pena "creations" to debut this month here.

* In a major surprise, the 4/24/92 of Box y Lucha ran an article on page 13 saying that Antonio Pena, the EMLL, and the CMLL formally apologized to el Justiciero. I have to enter the realm of "educated guessing" here, but I stand by the assumption I am about to make. El Justiciero was (fact) one of the EMLL representatives to the Wrestlers'/Boxers' Union during the strike last year. I strongly believe from a number of clues that he was fired last November (fact) because he either did lead or tried to lead a EMLL-wrestler's takeover of the union leadership (educated guess), which is almost entirely comprised of UWA wrestlers (fact) and run by Manny Guzman (fact), who is constantly being accused of being pro-UWA and anti-EMLL/CMLL (fact that he's accused of that, whether he is or isn't biased I can't say but the number of accusers and accusations is simply overwhelming). What I actually suspect is that many old-timers, most of whom are in the UWA or in the Paco Alonso "camp" in the CMLL, strongly dislike Antonio Pena and the way he is re-forming lucha libre with his ideas (which in many ways mirror what Vince McMahon did in the mid 1980s in the US with one hugely crucial difference—McMahon brought in to be his big stars the biggest, strongest, most-charismatic guys, whereas Pena has time and again show that whom he wants to bring into the CMLL is the best workers and he (Pena) will give them a successful new gimmick to work under.) Anyway, back to Justiciero, he was fired—and I believe for leading an unsuccessful takeover of union leadership—so I guess "sacrificed to keep peace among the boys" may be a fitting phrase here. Some of this has been speculation but it's pretty likely what happened. Now, Pena has issued an apology and invited Justiciero back, so I guess things have calmed down. The article in Box y Lucha is extremely factual and straight, up to a point, explaining how Justiciero led the opposition to Guzman in regards to settling the strike and how the two often had fierce arguments. The key phrase they use is that "The union revoked el Justiciero's license to wrestle, as they said he was acting against the interests of the rest of the union." That is true and an unfair labor practice in my book. I wouldn't be surprised, and I have absolutely no factual basis to back this up on, if Pena and the CMLL had been paying el Justiciero enough to keep him afloat during the last six months. The magazine printed Pena's whole statement, with little editorial comment. It also mentioned that Justiciero claimed to be injured, that they (the magazine) weren't sure how legit this was, and that Justiciero was now invited back full-time to work for "la empresa." I have to complement Box y Lucha which I can safely say, after reading Weekly Gong, Weekly Pro Wrestling, Super Luchas and the US magazines, is the most journalistically sound newsstand magazine that I know exists. But I also wonder if Pena wasn't "forced" to make this apology by politics or circumstances or Alonso or whatever.

* Speaking of these magazines, it is a shame that the scene in the U. S. A. does not have magazines such as these Mexican magazines. Actually, it's also a shame more people do not know about them anyway. Box y Lucha does not have much in the way of graphics and is word-heavy, but is indispensable to the "Juan Fanatico" and seeing how it gets all the information, including Sunday night results, out by Wednesday afternoon, may be the best magazine in the world. Super Luchas is so bright and colorful it would be a big hit even in the US, even with those who do not speak Spanish, and it also gets Sunday's results with bright color pictures out by Wednesday afternoon. We have lost two newer magazines lately, though. El Super Luchador Apala an attempt by the folks who publish Super Luchas to compete in the wrestling/comic-book market has suspended publication, as has Luchas Toros y Bellezas which tried to compete on a news/picture basis with the rest (and by covering topless beauties and bullfighting to boot) but never caught on. A new magazine has surfaced, though. Thanks to Kurt Brown for providing me the copies of the next two magazines I will review now. The first one is really slick. Called Arena de la Lucha Libre formally, but generally referred to as Arena, this is the house magazine of the CMLL. It is light years ahead of most other magazines (not only lucha libre but all Mexican "revistas" I see) in terms of graphics, layout, etc., though the content has no more "information" in it than does any WWF magazine. Also, I happened to see the May 8, 1992, issue of Sensacional a Luchas which was entitled "Pacto de Sangre" (Blood Pact) and covered the history

of the tragic end of legendary wrestlers el Solitario (Roberto Gonzalez Cruz), el Angel Blanco (Jose Angel "Ranchero" Vargas), and Doctor Wagner (Victor Manuela Gonzales Rivera). Doctor Wagner was paralyzed and the other two wrestlers killed within three weeks of each other in April 1986. El Solitario died April 6, 1986, supposedly of a heart attack, and on April 27, 1986, Wagner was paralyzed and Blanco killed in the same automobile accident near Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. This little comic book (that is, Sensacional a Lucha) is devoted to the last days of the three. It claimed el Solitario (tecnico) died after a tope suicida (a real life suicide dive) onto el Angel Blanco (rudo) during a match. El Solitario was taken to the hospital in an ambulance (after doing a final stretcher job) and soon thereafter passed away. Eight days after the funeral Wagner and Solitario were driving and arguing about that last match when the car Blanco was driving drove head on into a truck, killing Blanco and leaving Wagner in a wheelchair to this day, as the car careened over an embankment. Solitario and Blanco are buried side by side at the end as Wagner goes, "Why did they die? Why did I live?" and is accompanied away from graveside by an adult el Hijo del Solitario (i.e., the last scenes of the book were set in 1992, not 1986). It basically implies Wagner has never recovered emotionally. (Note: there has been scuttlebutt there might be more to these tragedies than this official version.) This little comic book is highly recommended and available in southern California at Hispanic newstands. It was issue 340. Issue 341 features the heroic exploits of "el Volador." The cover date is usually 21 days ahead of the first date it goes on sale. So issue 340 (5/8/92) would go on sale 4/17/92, issue 341 4/24, and issue 342 5/1, and so on. And I do believe issues are kept on hand for several weeks.

* By the way, I found out by reading Arena that that is where the CMLL has "stuck" Arturo "Art" Rivera and Raul Sarmiento Diaz, former television commentators last year (well, Sarmiento is still on, but rarely, and his role as "chief interviewer at ringside" has been taken over by Andres Maronas.)

* CHamaco Ayala and The Karate Kid (not a midget) are interviewed in Box y Lucha. Ayala in particular gets a nice write-up. Also with a good write-up are los Guerreros del Espacio, who are obviously getting the big push.

* Konnan's rap record will be on sale at record stores May 15 (I believe it will be available in Southern California). He debuted it at a club performance on 4/19. His occasional role on the telenovela "el Abuelo y Yo" continues. Could this "retirement" be legit? Even on a part-time basis? He is still wrestling. Oh, by the way, the rap record is called "Que se Quiten las Minis." I don't think it's about midget wrestlers, either...Konnan was interviewed in the April 30th (Children's Day holiday) edition of Esta Mexico's largest-circulation all-sports newspaper, as he saying his "rap, acting, and wrestling" effort would from now on be dedicated to the kiddies. Well, that's what he said.

* Several new mini-super-estrellas are set to debut for the CMLL: los Gemelitos Diablos (who actually already have debuted and will be on TV soon), el Ultimo Dragoncito, el Pequeno Jaque Mate, el Pequeno Masacre (Pena intends to promote a "Pequenos Intocables" trio), and el Voladorcito.

* The Mexican national holiday Children's Day (el Dia del Nino) is April 30 every year. Last year, the EMLL taped a show at la Pista Arena Revolucion on April 24 and it aired on Galavision the following Sunday. Well, this year, the CMLL has the same arena booked for April 30, and the same idea may be tried. They filmed last year in front of a group of school children (more girls than boys) and the heat was great. This year the promotion announced in its house magazine Arena that they would give away two pairs of tickets to the taping to the first 500 school kids who came by the magazine offices on April 25. The CMLL also booked la Arena Naucalpan for a Thursday night card (April 30 is a Thursday) at 9:00 pm (!) with Octagon, el Dandy, and la Mascara Sagrada booked against Fuerza Guerrera, Emilio Charles junior, and la Fiera on top and la Mascarita Sagrada, el Misterioito, and la Aguilita Solitaria versus Jerrito Estrada, el Pequeno Cobarde, and el Piratita Morgan in the semifinal. I would expect Octagon to be replaced in the main event, as he is reported to be being held out to let the minor broken bone in his right hand heal before the next big series at la Arena Mexico starts.

* The father of el Volador (Remo Banda) died Sunday, April 12, 1992, at his home in Monclova, Coahuila, Mexico. Banda (and I don't know if that's his real name or a ring name) is from Santa Catalina, Nuevo Leon, and has been el Volador right at two years now. Speaking of real names, Katana in the UWA is Leon CHino, but I believe that that is another ring name ("Leon CHino" = "Afro' Lion") rather than a real name like Leon's short for Leonardo or something.

* Guastodia magazine, one of the straightest-shooting of the Mexican tabloids, decries in its 5/12/92 issue those who gainsay the talents of Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon. Now I ask you, who could be doubting Asai's ability? I guess there are some who so dislike Pena and his characters that every character, no matter how good the worker inside it, is evil. This issue also reports how five wrestlers (Cien Caras, el Satanico, Octagon, Love Machine, and Blue Panther) participated in a fund-raising event in San Francisco del Rincon, Guadalajara, Mexico, and got over very well as fine representatives for their sport. They were competing in some kind of contest (like a bachelors' auction, I think) with several young singers of Mexican pop and folk songs. The whole event, apparently, was a big hit and raised much more money than they had guessed at first could be raised.

CMLL TELEVISION RUNDOWN: Here is the card, taped Friday night, April 24, 1992, at la Arena Coliseo, located at 77 Republica de Peru, Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico, and shown on Galavision on Sunday, May 3, 1992. The initial of the card did not air; it was a regular parejas match between la Antifaz and Super Kiss (not the WWA World Trios Champion) versus el Guerrero Negro and el Guerrero de la Muerte. After the introductions from the television announcers and our first commercial, we went to the card segunda, which was the television opener. There, el Trio Metalico (Plata, Bronce, and captain Oro) defeated la Plaga del Ring (Marabunta, Enjambre, and captain Ponzona) two falls to zero in a total elapsed time of 17:52. The date of taping, 4/24/92, marked the one-year anniversary of the debut of la Plaga in the CMLL. The first fall went 13:02 and ended when Bronce made Enjambre submit to "el nudo," or the old Signo Special. The second went 4:50 before Bronce pinned Marabunta after an inside the ring, off the top rope "quebrada," or moonsault bodyblock. This match continued one of the best individual performances, in terms of timing, acrobatics, gymnastics, wrestling, and everything else I can think of, in the work by Oro. Oro had a five-star match. I am giving this match overall a grade of **** but I am tempted to warn any of you that see this that this is a far away from American- or Japanese-style wrestling as you can possibly get. Judged on American or Japanese scales this would get a low grade but in the lucha style it was absolutely stupendous. Oro seems to have picked up some things from his trip to Japan and la Plaga is very much improved. Highly recommended.... **THE** Cartometro popularity poll was next. Octagon (from his movie) and Konnan el Barbaro (off his rap record) led the tecnicos; The Blue Panther and la Fiera led los rudos; Martha "la Aplandora" Villalobos and Xochitl Hamada are 1-2 ladies; la Mascarita Sagrada and el Espectrito (junior) are the top minis; and los Brazos and los Guerreros del Espacio are 1-2 in trios. The "relevante" (highlight) of the week is all the big moves from little la Mascarita Sagrada; and el lance (dive) of the week was el Volador's out of the ring quebrada from 4/17.... **THE** tercera of the card was our second TV match. Here, Iga (Masao Orihara from Japan's SWS), Koga (Toshiyuki Nakahara from SWS) and captain Super Astro (from Tijuana) defeated Kurt Brown's fave rave, los Nuevos Destruyores del Ring (Tony Arce, his brother Rocco Valente, and captain el Vulcano) in three falls in 17:49. The first fall went 10:27 before all three Destruyores made Koga submit to a typical rudo all-body-parts stretcher. The second went 3:10 before Iga did his patented quebrada inside the ring on one of los Destruyores (I couldn't tell which one) and pinned him. The third went 4:12 as Super Astro pinned all three rudos. I have seen the finishing spot tried hundreds of times here but this is the first time I have seen it work for a pin. It's the spot where Super Astro sneaks between the entangled arms and legs of the joint "Rito Romero special" and covers all three opponents. Tough to describe that spot, but it's one of el Brazo de Plata's favorites. Super Astro looked like he tore a ligament in his right knee (that's how they played it up on television at least) and did not try much. The Japanese seem to have caught on to the lucha style very well. This match started out as a slow-down, change-of-pace match, with the entire first fall being a slow rudo dismantling of the tecnicos. It was quite a change from the charged up first match. Later los Destruyores went into their patented bumping-into-each-other routine that takes so much practice and timing. All in all, very good. *** 1/4.... **NEXT** came the semifinal, as the masked trio of el Volador, el Misterioso, and captain el Angel Azteca got revenge for their loss last week and defeated los Mosqueteros del Diablo, los Brazos (el Brazo, el Brazo de Plata, and captain el Brazo de Oro) in three falls in 14:40. The first fall went, get this, 0:00 when Angel Azteca sat on top of "Super Porky" (el Brazo de Plata) who was leaning across his two brothers he (Porky) had just accidentally splashed before the first fall whistle had even sounded. Hey, the refs counted three so it must be a legit fall. The second fall went a more conventional 6:52 before captain Brazo de Oro made captain Azteca submit to "la tapatia" (upside-down surfboard). The decisive stage went 5:48 before a complicated but beautifully (indeed, perfectly) executed finish. Again, Brazo de Oro had Azteca in "la tapatia," Azteca shifted his weight backwards, and both men's shoulders were on the mat. At the count of two, Azteca bridged up and lifted his shoulders off the mat (a perfectly executed bridge too) and Brazo de Oro's shoulders were still down at the count of three. BUT, heel ref "el Gato" Montini (Javier Medina) counted both men's shoulders down (in a real heel move). He was overruled by "Mitsaer Justicia" senior CMLL referee Roberto "el Guero" Rangel, who saw the whole thing, saw Azteca get his shoulders up, and awarded the bout to the tecnicos. A fair bout with a great ending. P. S. el Brazo de Plata looked terrible (health-wise) again this week. ***.... **AND** the main event featured CMLL World Trios Champions los Intocables del Ring (Jaque Mate, Masakre, captain Pierroth junior). They won a disputed non-title victory over Casanova el Vampiro Canadiense, Black Magic (Norman Smiley), and captain Atlantis in three falls in 14:09. The first fall ended out of nowhere in about 4:36 as all the faces submitted to the heels' choking tactics. The second went 5:56 before Vampiro pinned Pierroth with one of the most well-executed ranas (the old Ricky Morton Mexican roll-up) I have ever seen. Vampiro has learned some lucha libre moves after all! The third went 5:48 and ended when captain Pierroth pinned captain Atlantis. Actually, Atlantis "let himself be pinned" as Pierroth had just unmasked him and Atlantis would rather be pinned than reveal his identity. The point of this finish was that heel ref Montini saw the finish and should have disqualified Pierroth for the unmasking but did not and instead counted the pinfall (Rangel was looking the other way). The commissioner at ringside saw this "blatant miscarriage of justice" and summarily suspended Montini for two weeks (he'll actually be out until 5/16 so it's almost 3 weeks but he'll miss the next 2 Friday night shows). Fair match with another well-thought out storyline and finish. Vampiro has improved a bunch and the heat he gets is unreal. ***.

Before I leave the TV show, I also want to note that after praising them highly last week, they had choppy editing (into commercial breaks) and obnoxious Arturo "Art" Rivera back on TV commentary. That's bad. But they had the best crowd miking they have ever had and the camera shots (they were in perfect position for the last two technically precise finishes) was excellent. The work rate was outstanding tonight. Last year this line-up at la Arena Coliseo would have been if we were lucky a fair card but this was very very good; too bad the split is coming now....**LATE NEWS:** A couple of brief things before getting into Sunday's results. First, many of you have commented on the recent tragedy in Guadalajara, Jalisco. Things are returning to normal there and one Sunday soon (depending on the split), the CMLL intends to run the card it was going to run on the 26th, but this time as a benefit card. Also, I noticed something about the legal system there. The officials charged with negligence, etc., are "presumed guilty and must prove their innocence." Sure is different from ours, huh. Also, some of you saw the USA TODAY article about the quality of the air in Mexico City (up to 4 times worse than L.A. air). This is a very bad time of year for the air quality in Mexico City. The rainy season runs from May 1 to November 1, and the later in the rainy season, the better the air quality. The rains cleanses the air a bit. Therefore, the cleanest six weeks are from 9/15-11/1, roughly. I have been down there in September and October and in neither case was the air a very serious problem; certainly not so big a problem as the altitude. Still, I would not want to stay in that air long-term....Religio magazine, published by the same firm that publishes Super Luchas had real nice words for the UWA wrestlers who have worked Japan for Universal this year. How differently they treat "tours of Japan" than Americans do....**DUE** to the problems in the LA area, the card scheduled for Sunday, May 3, 1992, at the All Nations Center was postponed. They hope to promote it either next Sunday or the Sunday after, depending on which weekend many of these guys will be booked in Colorado for promoter Carlos Mata. The mascara contra caballera match between The Gemini Kid and Vandal Drummond is set for the next All Nations card. By the way, Super Luchas magazine sent a reporter (legit, no joke) to interview and photograph this circuit...**NOW**, here are the results of the UWA card held Sunday, May 3, 1992, at the "el Toreo de Cuatro Caminos" bullring in Naucalpan, Mexico. In the main event Andree el Gigante teamed with Enrique Vera and el Villano III to defeat Canek, Doctor Wagner junior, and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow) in two straight quick falls. Andree stretchered Canek by standing on his stomach for over a minute, then knocked Canek off the stretcher; so Andree will be a heel tecnico and Canek a babyface rudo. The semifinal saw a draw in the third fall between Haroaki "el Gran" Hamada and los Cowboys (Silver King and el Texano) and the team of Fishman and The Canadian Express I and II (Danny Kroffatt and Doug Furnas). UWA World Trios Champions los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte (The Black Power II, el Signo, and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro) defeated el Villano I, el Celestial, and el Fantasma (el Solar I no-showed) in three falls. The segunda saw el Ojo de Tigre, el Hijo de Super Zan, and Mocteauma all debut for the UWA and defeat el Engendro, The Baby Face I, and Kahos I. The opener had Katana (not gone yet), Kendo Star, and el Halcon 78 lose two of three falls from el Lobo Rubio, el Hijo del Diablo, and el Falcon. So Shu, el Guerrero has jumped to the CMLL. Also, el Indomito should be jumping soon. He lost the D. F. Light Heavyweight belt 4/12 to el Principe Island at la Arena Altavilla. For the CMLL, the Sunday, 5/3 card at la Arena Coliseo saw Apolo Dantes, la Mano Negra, and el Cachorro Mendoza win two of three from Fuerza Guerrera, Hussein el Gran Sheick, and el Egipcio. It was said to be a really good match, surprisingly, mostly due to Fuerza. In the only other result I have, the tercera, Koga, Iga, and Joe Mercado junior defeated el Volcanico, el Nuevo angel Blanco, and el Angel Blanco junior in three falls. Also, on 4/11, in Texcoco, Los Intocables won two of three from Atlantis, Mascara Sagrada, and Rayo de Jalisco junior; los Nuevos Destructores beat el Trio Metalico 2-1; Piratita Morgan and Pequeno Pierroth beat Octagoncito and Mascarita Sagrada 2-1; and Maria del Angel and Tania beat Janet and Lola "Dinamita" Gonzales 2-1. Konnan will hold a rap concert 5/15 at Pista Arena Revolucion. Scorpio I celebrates his 25th anniversary of his debut this week. And Medico Asesino junior working the border circuits very successfully now. No more news on the split but on the 5/3 card at Arena Coliseo, both Pena's and Alonso's guys were represented in the main event. NOTE: NEXT WEEK WILL BE A SPECIAL ISSUE! It will cover information about the promotions in Mexico, why what happens in the ring happens the way it does, the rules, the strategies, and a lot of basic background information. I expect there will be more news of the split as well. It is already partly written and in some ways I think it may be my best issue yet (I just know I am damning myself by saying that). I also hope to get into the twice-postponed cover analysis of how and why the CMLL pushes its split so often and so heavily in that issue.

FROM: LUCHA LIBRE WEEKLY

c/o STEPHEN H. SIMS

1427 WEST DICKENS AVENUE

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60614-3003

TO:

Scott Houston

P.O. Box 249

West Friendship, MD 21090

CHICAGO, IL
MAY 10 1992
21974-0219